

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1422

By Bell

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Harley Knowles on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their careers; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harley Knowles is one such person, who has distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, having served with probity for nearly eleven years as president of Tennessee Wesleyan University, Dr. Knowles is taking a well-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, Harley Knowles was born in Bangor, Maine, and raised in nearby Brewer; he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in education from the University of Maine at Orono and a doctorate in education from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; and

WHEREAS, prior to his tenure with Tennessee Wesleyan University, Dr. Knowles served for four years as Vice President for Institutional Advancement at the University of New England in Biddeford, Maine, with responsibilities including fundraising, alumni programming, and government and community relations; and

WHEREAS, he previously served as Vice President for Student Affairs at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia, and early in his thirty-year higher education career, he served in student affairs at the College of William and Mary and the University of Maine; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harley Knowles became the twentieth president of Tennessee Wesleyan University in July 2011; during his estimable tenure, he has led the campus during the transition from Tennessee Wesleyan College to Tennessee Wesleyan University, including the construction of the Colloms Campus Center, the creation of the Goodfriend School of

Business, the acquisition and improvement of Reece Hall and Hardaway Hall, multiple facility upgrades, and extensive enhancements of the entire forty-acre campus; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Knowles also established undergraduate programs in communication studies, social work, religion and philosophy, and engineering science; degree completion programs in business, nursing, and criminal justice; and four graduate programs: a Master of Business Administration, Master of Arts in Teaching, Master of Science in Nursing, and Master of Occupational Therapy; and

WHEREAS, in addition, he oversaw the construction of Wallace Square, which provides a beautiful gathering space in the center of campus for students, faculty, staff, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Wesleyan University's endowment doubled during his tenure, and a record fundraising campaign led to gifts and pledges of \$22 million; the university also experienced two years of unprecedented enrollment numbers, a significant increase in the retention rate, and, notably, the baseball team won two national NAIA championships and received a major stadium upgrade; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Dr. Knowles enjoys the love and support he shares with his wife, Cindy Coulson, who is a former college administrator. He and Cindy have invested themselves in the community through their work with Keith United Methodist Church, the McMinn Regional Humane Society, the Arts Center, and Main Street Athens; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary career, Dr. Harley Knowles has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues, his students, and the citizens he has so ably served; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Dr. Harley Knowles upon his exemplary career as an education administrator and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.